

Certified Practising registration

The PACFA Register is a register of appropriately qualified and experienced counsellors, psychotherapists and Indigenous Healing Practitioners who have demonstrated that they meet standards of professional training and ethical conduct, and have sufficient experience to deliver quality allied health therapeutic services to the public.

There are two registration categories on the PACFA Register, Certified Practising and Registered Clinical. This registration standard sets out PACFA's requirements for the Certified Practising registration of counsellors, psychotherapists and Indigenous Healing Practitioners.

Certified Practising registration may be sought by new graduates from the discipline and from those not yet eligible for Registered Clinical registration.

Certified Practising registration is granted to individuals who meet both the qualification and eligibility requirements set out in this registration standard.

Does this standard apply to me?

This standard applies to all applicants for Certified Practising registration and on renewal.

Qualification requirements

To apply for Certified Practising registration an applicant must have successfully completed a qualification which meets the minimum requirements as set by the PACFA Accreditation Standards for Counselling Programs:

1. The program must be at Bachelor degree level or above (AQF Level 7 or above) and be discipline-specific to counselling and psychotherapy or meet the requirements of the PACFA Professional Competencies for Registration as a Certified Practising Counsellor.
2. To be considered to have successfully completed the program a graduate must have demonstrated the skills, knowledge and professional attributes as articulated in the PACFA Professional Competencies for Registration as a Certified Practising Counsellor.

Eligibility requirements

In addition to holding an accepted qualification, the following eligibility requirements are to be met:

1. The applicant must provide two certified proof of identity documents as outlined in PACFA's Proof of Identity Standard.
2. The applicant must provide a Nationally Coordinated Criminal History Check (formerly National Police Check) dated no earlier than 3 months prior to the application, as outlined in PACFA's Criminal History Standard.
3. The applicant must meet the requirement for proficiency in the English language as outlined in PACFA's English Language Skills Standard.
4. The applicant must provide evidence of current professional indemnity and public liability insurance (either private or from their employer), or declare that they will purchase the PACFA Master Insurance Policy as part of their application, as outlined in PACFA's Professional Indemnity Insurance Standard.
5. The applicant must commit to the annual logging of those hours of their client work that meet PACFA's definition of post training client contact as outlined in PACFA's Client Contact Standard.
6. The applicant must commit to undertake PACFA's annual requirement of clinical supervision of their client work with a supervisor as outlined in PACFA's Clinical Supervision Standard.
7. The applicant must commit to PACFA's annual requirement of continuing professional development as outlined in PACFA's Continuing Professional Development Standard.
8. The applicant must commit to the standards outlined in PACFA's Code of Ethics and advise of any past or present complaints of professional misconduct as outlined in PACFA's Ethical Practice and Professional Conduct Standard.

Application pathways

Application for Certified Practising registration is via one of three qualification pathways:

1. **PACFA accredited program**
Successful completion of a qualification accredited by PACFA as meeting the PACFA Accreditation Standards for Counselling Programs.
2. **Program not accredited by PACFA**
Successful completion of a government-accredited training program at the level of Bachelor degree or above which has not been accredited by PACFA but that is assessed by PACFA to be substantially equivalent or based on similar competencies, to a PACFA accredited program as defined by the PACFA Professional Competencies for Registration as a Certified Practising Counsellor.
3. **Overseas qualification**
Successful completion of an overseas qualification that has been assessed to be substantially equivalent or based on similar competencies, to a PACFA accredited program as defined by the PACFA Professional Competencies for Registration as a Certified Practising Counsellor.

Maintaining registration

Registration is required to be renewed annually. When renewing their Certified Practising registration, registrants are required, in addition to payment of the required fee, to meet PACFA's mandatory declarations and renewal requirements as set out in the following standards:

- › Criminal History
- › Ethical Practice and Professional Conduct
- › Professional Indemnity Insurance
- › Client Contact
- › Clinical Supervision
- › Continuing Professional Development, and
- › Recency of Practice.

Document version control

Version	Description	Originator	Reviewed	Approved	Date	Next review
C	Effective January 2026	Professional Standards Committee	PACFA Office	Board	December 2025	June 2028

For further information, please email admin@pacfa.org.au